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REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-10, 12-47, 49, 52-62 have been cancelled. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10, 12-47, 49, 52-62 have been cancelled.

Claims 11, 48, 50 and 51 are allowed.

Claims 11, 48, 50 and 51 are pending and under consideration.

ITEM 2: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, 6, 10, 14-15, 19, 23, 27-28, 32-33 and 34-39 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER TSUBOYAMA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 5,995,076) IN VIEW OF WILLIAMS ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,397,343);

ITEM 4: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5, 13, 18, 22, 26 AND 31 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER TSUBOYAMA ET AL. AND WILLIAMS ET AL. IN VIEW OF KAWATA AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF TANAKA (U.S. PATENT 6,130,420);

ITEM 5: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 AND 47 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER TSUBOYAMA ET AL. AND WILLIAMS ET AL. IN VIEW OF KAWATA AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF JAGDT (DE 4112672A1);

ITEM 6: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 53-54 AND 57 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER TSUBOYAMA ET AL. AND WILLIAMS ET AL. IN VIEW OF KAWATA AND IN FURTHER VIEW OF AOKI;

ITEM 7: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 55-56 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER TSUBOYAMA ET AL. AND WILLIAMS ET AL. IN VIEW OF KAWATA AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF AOKI;

ITEM 8: REJECTION OF CLAIM 58 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER TSUBOYAMA ET AL. AND WILLIAMS ET AL. IN VIEW OF KAWATA AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF AOKI;

ITEM 9: REJECTION OF CLAIM 59 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)
TSUBOYAMA ET AL. AND WILLIAMS ET AL. IN VIEW OF KAWATA AND IN FURTHER VIEW
OF AOKI;

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ITEM 10: REJECTION OF CLAIM 60 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

TSUBOYAMA ET AL. AND WILLIAMS ET AL. IN VIEW OF KAWATA AND IN FURTHER VIEW

OF AOKI;

ITEM 11: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 61-62 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) TSUBOYAMA ET AL. AND WILLIAMS ET AL. IN VIEW OF KAWATA AND IN FURTHER VIEW OF AOKI.

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

Bv:

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